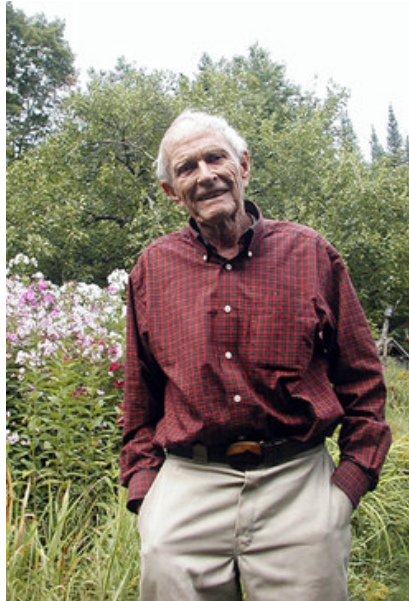


NEWS RELEASE

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Photos available via email



The League of NH Craftsmen Gallery 205 Hosts the Lifetime Achievement Award Exhibition, featuring the work of Walker T. Weed

April 8—June 22, 2011

Opening Reception: April 8, 5 pm – 7 pm, Gallery 205, Concord, NH

CONCORD, NH – The League of NH Craftsmen bestowed its Lifetime Achievement Award to **Walker T. Weed**, a national leader in American contemporary furniture making. The League’s Gallery 205 is pleased to present a special exhibition of Weed’s furniture from April 8 through June 22, 2011. An opening reception will be held on Friday, April 8, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. **Walker Weed** will make a special guest appearance. Gallery 205 is located in the League of NH Craftsmen’s headquarters at 205 North Main Street in Concord, NH and is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, and Saturdays, during the exhibition, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Weed, a juried League member since 1949, is a self-taught furniture maker. He has influenced generations as a teacher and an artist, having served as the director of the Dartmouth College crafts program from 1964-1981. He has also earned the Award of Distinction from the Furniture Society, given to “deeply respected educators in addition to being outstanding makers.”

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The **Lifetime Achievement Award** is a special honor conferred on a juried craftsman who represents the highest achievement in his or her medium and has demonstrated a strong commitment to the League of NH Craftsmen. The award is recommended by the League of NH Craftsmen Standards Committee and is only given when a qualified candidate of extraordinary talent and commitment is identified. The candidate(s) must then be approved by the League of NH Craftsmen Board of Trustees to receive the award. To be considered for the Lifetime Achievement Award, a candidate must:

- Be a current or former juried member of the League of NH Craftsmen
- Demonstrate excellence in his or her craft
- Demonstrate commitment to the League
- Have earned local, regional, or national recognition in his or her craft
- Be a current or former mentor to other craftspeople

“Walker Weed was an active member of the League during its formative years, and as a Board member, helped to build awareness and support for the organization,” said League Executive Director Susie Lowe-Stockwell.

“Throughout his career, he enjoyed collaborating with other craftsmen and sharing his knowledge and serving as a mentor to his students at Dartmouth College and beyond.”

A Reverence for Wood

As a young child growing up in Montclair, NJ, Weed developed an interest in woodworking because of his grandmother, who shared her enthusiasm about her antique furniture collection. In elementary school, Weed took woodworking courses – the only formal training he ever received – and at the age of 12, purchased a circular saw, lathe, and set of hand tools and set up a shop in the basement of his home. He made benches and coffee tables that he sold for \$5 each.

His career in full-time furniture making began in 1948, when he launched a cabinetmaking business in Gilford, NH with some friends. They called it the Gilford Workshop, and they created white pine reproductions of early American furniture. The business lasted a few years, and when it closed in 1951, Weed continued with his own one-person shop. His wife Hazel, an accomplished spinner and weaver, handled the bookkeeping, customer relations, and collaborated with Weed on some pieces.

Weed joined the League of NH Craftsmen in 1949, and soon became active in the organization, serving on its board through the 1950s. He sold his furniture through the League’s retail galleries and at the Fair. Weed received encouragement and support from the League Executive Director David Campbell and other League craftsmen,

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such as potters Gerry Williams and Edwin and Mary Scheier, and leatherworker Gordon Keeler. He made about 75 pieces of furniture a year; about half was custom work, the other half, repeated designs such as his drop leaf tables or his Shaker or block back chairs.

Weed's design sensibility was influenced by the balanced work and details of the Shakers, the simple forms and lines of Scandinavian Modern design, and by Pennsylvania woodworker George Nakashima's natural forms with raw edges and organic shapes. As he was developing his style, Weed also became involved with the American Crafts Council (ACC) through David Campbell, and was a trustee from 1956-57. In 1962, he began teaching woodworking classes at the newly opened Hopkins Center at Dartmouth College. Two years later, Weed became director of the college's crafts program. He continued to make furniture and also taught woodworking workshops at schools across the country. He retired from Dartmouth College in 1981.



Weed's furniture has been shown in exhibitions and publications internationally for over 50 years. Craft organizations have also recognized his substantial contributions: in 1992, Weed was elected a Fellow of the American Craft Council in 1992, and in 2008, he received the Award of Distinction from the Furniture Society.

"Becoming skillful in a craft is a great source of joy. Making useful things with one's hands gives you a great sense of accomplishment and also a basis for judging the beauty and quality of the utilitarian objects with which we live. Even the simplest things that have been made with love contribute much to our happiness and understanding," said Weed about his craft.

The League of NH Craftsmen would like to acknowledge the generous support of Lead Sponsor: Josiah E. Fernald Trust, Citizens Bank as Trustee and Gallery Sponsor: Davis & Towle Insurance Group.

The League of NH Craftsmen is a non-profit, craft education organization. Its mission is to encourage, nurture, and promote the creation, use, and preservation of fine contemporary and traditional craft through the inspiration and education of artists and the broader community. The League represents the *signature of excellence* in fine craft, through the work of its juried members, and its rigorous standards for self expression, vision, and quality craftsmanship.

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The League of NH Craftsmen is supported in part by a grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.



For more information about the *Lifetime Achievement Award* exhibition, Gallery 205, or the League of NH Craftsmen, call 603-224-3375 or visit www.nhcrafts.org.

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